

Appln No. 09/690,796

Amdt date November 30, 2004

Reply to Office action of September 16, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A secure on-line system for printing value bearing items (VBI) comprising:

a client system for interfacing with one or more users; and

a server system capable of communicating with the client system over a communication network comprising:

a secure database remote from the users including information about the users;

computer executable code for password authentication to prevent unauthorized access to the database; and

a cryptographic module for authenticating any of the one or more users.

2.-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer executable code for password authentication comprises of computer executable code for an asynchronous dynamic password verification to terminate a user session if the password authentication fails.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the database stores a first set of one or more last database transactions and the cryptographic module stores a second set of one or more last database transactions for comparison with the first set of one

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or more last database transactions stored in the database to verify each database transaction.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the cryptographic module prevents further database transactions if the second set of one or more last transaction stored in the cryptographic module does not compare with the first set of one or more last transaction stored in the database.

8. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the database stores a table including the respective information about a last transaction and a verification module to compare the information saved in the module with the information saved in the database.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a back up database server connected to the server system for periodically backing up the data stored in the database in a back up database.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising a cryptographically protected transaction log stored in the back up database.

11.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one more cryptographic module and wherein each cryptographic module is capable of processing data related to any of the one or more users.

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17. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the cryptographic module includes a data validation subsystem to verify that data is up to date and an auto-recovery subsystem for allowing the module to automatically re-synchronize the module with the data.

18.-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the cryptographic module includes a computer executable code for detecting errors and preventing a compromise of data or critical cryptographic security parameters as a result of the errors.

23.-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the server system further comprises one or more of a postal server subsystem, a provider server subsystem, an e-commerce subsystem, a staging subsystem, a client support subsystem, a decision support subsystem, a SMTP subsystem, an address matching service subsystem, a SSL proxy server subsystem, and a web server subsystem.

43.-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Original) A method for securely printing value-bearing items (VBI) via a communication network including a client system and a server system, the method comprising the steps of:

interfacing with one or more users via the client system;

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communicating with the client system over the communication network;

storing user information in a secure database accessible through the communication network;

preventing unauthorized access to the database by users external to the communication network; and

authenticating one or more users using a cryptographic module.

51. (Original) The method of claim 50, further comprising the step of encrypting database transactions by the cryptographic module.

52. (Original) The method of claim 50, further comprising the steps of

storing one or more last database transactions in the database;

storing one or more last database transactions in the cryptographic module; and

comparing the one or more last database transactions stored in the database with the one or more last database transactions stored in the cryptographic module to verify each database transaction.

53.-54. (Cancelled)

55. (Original) The method of claim 50, further comprising the steps of storing one or more last database transactions in the database, storing one or more last database transactions in the cryptographic module for comparison with the one or more last database transactions stored in the database to verify each database transaction.

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56. (Original) The method of claim 55, further comprising the step of preventing further database transactions if the one or more last transaction stored in the cryptographic module does not compare with the one or more last transaction stored in the database.

57. (Original) The method of claim 50, further comprising the step of storing a table including the respective information about a last transaction and comparing the information saved in the module with the information saved in the database.

58. (Original) The method of claim 50, further comprising the step of backing up data stored in the database in a back up database.

59. (Original) The method of claim 58, further comprising the step of recovering data from the back up database by decrypting an encrypted transaction log stored in the back up database.

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Original) The method of claim 50, further comprising the step of storing in the database a plurality of security device transaction data for ensuring authenticity of the one or more users, wherein each security device transaction data is related to a user.

62.-91. (Cancelled)

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92. (Original) An on-line system for printing value bearing items (VBI) comprising:

a client system for interfacing with one or more users;

a server system capable of communicating with the client system over a communication network comprising:

a first database remote from the user including information about the user;

a cryptographic module for authenticating any of the one or more users; and

a backup database server connected to the server system for backing up data in a back up database.

93.-106. (Cancelled)

107. (Original) A method for printing value-bearing items (VBI) via a communication network including a client system and a server system, the method comprising the steps of:

interfacing with one or more users via the client system;

communicating with the client system over the communication network;

storing user information in a database accessible through the communication network;

authenticating the users by a cryptographic module; and

backing up data stored in the database in a back up database.

108. (Original) The method of claim 107, further comprising the step of recovering data from the back up database by decrypting an encrypted transaction log stored in the back up database.

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109. (Cancelled)

110. (Original) The method of claim 107, further comprising the steps of

storing one or more last database transactions in the database;

storing one or more last database transactions in the cryptographic module; and

comparing the one or more last database transactions stored in the database with the one or more last database transactions stored in the cryptographic module to verify each database transaction.

111.-112. (Cancelled)

113. (Original) The method of claim 107, further comprising the steps of storing one or more last database transactions in the database, storing one or more last database transactions in the cryptographic module for comparison with the one or more last database transactions stored in the database to verify each database transaction.

114. (Original) The method of claim 113, further comprising the step of preventing further database transactions if the one or more last transaction stored in the cryptographic module does not compare with the one or more last transaction stored in the database.

115.-121. (Cancelled)